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poration of three states, and the district of Columbia; and as soon as the surveys and estimates are completed, there will be wanting nothing but the determination of the general government as to the amount of that aid, to give a beginning to the great undertaking. Should the continuation of this canal to Lake Erie, through Ohio, be likely to encounter opposition from the interests of that state, so largely vested in its own parallel work, it is probable that an equally eligible route will be ascertained, by the surveys, to exist within the limits of Pennsylvania.

But we have not space for further enlargement on this subject; more especially for the reflections which crowd on the mind, while contemplating it. The bounties of nature are lavishly spread around us; but it is known, that the skill and industry of man can improve them a thousand fold. There is a wisdom, a grandeur, in the policy, which would give the strongest impulse, the highest direction, to this skill and industry; and we should feel the deepest regret, nay, our pride in our country would be humbled, if we believed that its institutions, instead of being compatible with this beneficent policy, had a tendency to repress and crush it. In regard to national and state rights, we believe no course of policy could produce a more just balance between them. Those measures, which efficaciously tend to make the whole thriving, powerful, and united, cannot but benefit every part.

ART. II.—*The History of New England from 1630 to 1649; by JOHN WINTHROP, first Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay; from his Original Manuscripts. With Notes to illustrate the Civil and Ecclesiastical Concerns, the Geography, Settlement, and Institutions of the Country, and the Lives and Manners of the principal Planters. By JAMES SAVAGE. 2 vols. 8vo. Boston. Phelps & Farnham.*

TILL within a few years, the history of our own country was the last object which engaged the attention of American scholars. The study of that history formed no part of our system of education either at school or at college, and the voluntary perusal of it at a subsequent period of life, was considered the business of a mere antiquary rather than of a well informed American citi-

zen. This neglect of so important a subject certainly redounded little to our credit, and has been condemned by many as a sure and strong indication of a want of patriotism. We ascribe it to a very obvious and much less censurable cause, the character of those works in which our own history is written. As these are much more remarkable for accuracy and impartiality, than for elegance of style and philosophical research, the general and indiscriminating neglect, with which they have been treated, though far from justifiable, is, on the whole, not surprising. These remarks, which are not to be understood without qualification or exception, may be applied particularly to our colonial history. The 19th of April 1775 seemed to be often considered as the birthday of our nation, not only in many, but in all respects, and our condition before that period was regarded as a state of pre-existence. It is only of late, that we have learned to trace our present free and happy condition, to its remote as well as its proximate causes, to acknowledge our obligations not only to the statesmen and soldiers, who conducted the war of independence, but to those sages from whom we derived the principles, institutions, and habits, which render independence desirable.

Of all the tribes of hardy adventurers, who laid the foundation of our widely extended nation, there are none who have been alike censured and applauded with so little discrimination, as the pilgrim fathers of New England. Their characters have been sometimes held up as models of almost supernatural excellence, but they have more generally been depicted in far different colors; and there were many among us who seemed to be ignorant of almost every event which occurred in Massachusetts during the seventeenth century, except the destruction of the aborigines, the persecution of the Quakers, and the execution of the witches. Slight and vague impressions are now happily giving way to correct and circumstantial knowledge, and the early history of this state is becoming an object of great and constantly increasing interest. A complete and elegant history of Massachusetts is yet a desideratum, but the want of such a work has been supplied in no inconsiderable degree, by the ability and eloquence with which the principles and institutions of the pilgrims have been portrayed in less voluminous productions.

Those, however, who would become thoroughly acquainted with the character of our forefathers, must study their works; and we need hardly state the fact, that no men ever left behind them more accurate and impartial accounts of their own conduct.

All their actions, even those which are now most condemned and regretted, are narrated with equal unreserve and minuteness; and however we may occasionally lament their prejudice or passion, every line of their writings bears indisputable testimony to their sincerity and frankness. Among all the works of that period, there is none of a more extraordinary or interesting description than the book before us. An exact journal of the first governor of Massachusetts Bay, embracing the history of the country between the years 1630 and 1649, is manifestly a document so singularly desirable, that, in other countries, and under other circumstances, its authenticity would be subjected to no slight suspicion. In this age of literary scepticism, indeed, we know not whether it will even now be universally admitted, and should not be surprised at an elaborate argument from some humble disciple of the school which has argued so strenuously against the existence of Homer, showing that the book before us is the production not of one, but of a hundred hands, that its supposed author never existed, and that John Winthrop was not the name of an individual, but a general title of all the governors of Massachusetts during the seventeenth century. As no such question has yet been started, we may be permitted to express our gratification, at seeing the whole of this work presented to the public for the first time in a complete form, and our obligations, shared by the whole community, to its present able and learned editor. The first volume was published at Hartford, in 1790, from the manuscripts in possession of Governor Winthrop's descendants. The manner in which the remaining portion of the work was brought to light, as well as the reasons which led to a revised copy of the whole, will appear in the following extract from Mr Savage's Preface.

‘Early in the spring of 1816 was discovered, in the tower of the Old South Church in Boston, the third volume of the *History of New England*, in the original MS. of the author, John Winthrop, first governor of the Massachusetts Bay. When the precious book was presented to the Massachusetts Historical Society, at their next meeting, 25 April, the difficulty of transcribing it for the press seemed to appal several of the most competent members, whose engagement in more important duties afforded also a sufficient excuse for leaving such labor to be undertaken by any one, at any time, who could devote to it many weeks of leisure. The task appeared inviting to me. On the same evening the MS. was taken, and the study of its chirography was begun, the next day,

by the aid of one of the former MSS. collated with the printed volume, usually called Winthrop's Journal. Of all the three MSS. and of the published Journal, a sufficient account may be seen in 2 Hist. Coll. IV. 200.

Before the collation of the former MS. with the volume printed in 1790 had proceeded through many pages, the discovery of numerous important errors seemed to make a new edition of the earlier part of the History very desirable; and when a transcript of the new found volume was completed, my resolution was fixed, that it should not be printed without a perfect revision of the Journal. Notes, explanatory, in some instances, of the text, illustrating, in some degree, the biography of many persons named in it, and referring to better accounts of others than I could furnish, were thought necessary. Several hundred notes were prepared, and a careful collation of the whole printed volume, for the second time, with the original volumes of MS. was finished on 2 June, 1819. Being then required to visit a foreign country, all my preparations were suspended until I returned. Care, however, was taken to leave the corrected copy of the printed volume, with my copy of the third part, to be kept safely. Again called abroad in 1822, I so carefully disposed of my copy of the third volume, as to leave it in a forgotten place, which afforded me the gratification of making a new one, begun 8 December, 1823, and finished 30 March, 1824. This circumstance admonished me of the propriety of adopting early measures for guarding against farther accidents of that kind. Application was made, at the next session of the General Court of this commonwealth, by the Historical Society, for encouragement of the publication. In consequence of the liberal aid of the Legislature, the volume comes thus early before the public.'

Mr Savage afterwards informs us, that the original manuscript will remain in the library of the Historical Society for his correction by any one, who doubts of the faithfulness of a single passage. Few we believe will undertake the task, and he has enabled us to form some judgment of his amendments, at a much less expense of labor. Whenever he has introduced a new reading, he has accompanied it with a note of reference to the corresponding word or sentence in the first edition, which is inserted at the bottom of the page. Internal evidence is, generally speaking, strongly in Mr Savage's favor. He has given meaning to many passages, which before bade defiance to explanation, has removed many irreconcilable contradictions, and often substituted plain sense for whimsical absurdity. Who will suppose for

example, that Governor Winthrop could say (p. 62) in speaking of a night which he was obliged to pass in the woods, in consequence of losing his way, that 'it was through God's mercy a *weary* night' instead of a '*warm* night' or (p. 80) that 'one Noddle, an honest man of Salem, was drowned while *running* wood in a canoe,' instead of '*carrying* wood,' or lastly (p. 323) that 'all *breeches* were made up, and the church saved from ruin beyond all expectation,' instead of '*breaches*.'

In bestowing due praise on the present edition, we would not be understood to speak lightly of the industry or accuracy of the former editor. Independently of the important assistance, which Mr Savage states himself in the above extract to have derived from the printed volume, it requires only a glance at the *fac simile* at the end of the present work, or at a few of the earliest pages of the Town Records of Boston, to satisfy us of the extreme difficulty of reading the handwriting of Governor Winthrop and his contemporaries. It is very different from the ancient 'Court Hand,' so much extolled by Blackstone, and bears a much nearer resemblance to the writing of scholars of the present day. To those who inspect it for the first time, it will seem less surprising that numerous errors should have been committed by the first editor, or that he should have given up many passages in despair, than that he should have decyphered so clearly the great body of the work.

We are glad to find that Mr Savage has not contented himself with improving on the verbal labors of his predecessor. He has added an Appendix, consisting of a number of authentic letters, and constituting, in our opinion, the most interesting portion of Governor Winthrop's writings, and has enriched the work with a large number of original and able notes. The good sense and impartiality of his comments form a singular contrast to the strong and indiscriminating attachment, generally shown by editors towards every part of those productions, which they have employed their time and talents in illustrating. We would more particularly recommend to the attention of our readers, his arguments against the genuineness of the celebrated Wheelwright deed of 1629. The whole train of reasoning is a specimen of acute research and powerful logic, but is too long to be inserted in this place. Mr Savage's positions have since derived ample confirmation from several manuscript documents which came into his possession a few days before the publication of his second volume, and in our opinion he has completely put the question at rest.

This work seems to be, in the strict sense of the word, a regular journal begun by Governor Winthrop on board the 'Arbella' at Cowes, March 29, 1630, and ending in the year 1649. It appears from some passages in it, that it was revised and prepared for publication by its author. Though it certainly deserves the reputation which it has so long and generally enjoyed, of being on the whole, a highly interesting work, it contains much that can afford little entertainment to the more general reader, and some passages which the author would probably have omitted had he lived at the present day.

Many will be surprised at finding such frequent and copious details of ordinary casualties and accidents, which a historian of this age would have passed over in silence. This misplaced minuteness may be ascribed in no inconsiderable degree, to the circumstances under which Governor Winthrop wrote, and the vast difference in many respects between the state of society at that period, and in our own times. At the present day, every breakfast table is loaded with fresh newspapers, and every morning brings its new accounts of accidents or casualties, or its tales of wonder or horror, to efface those of yesterday from our memory. It is only occurrences of real and great importance, that can arrest the attention of a numerous and busy community, any longer than the passing moment. In the days of Governor Winthrop, the inhabitants of Boston were a small and insulated people, and newspapers were a late invention even in England. The death of a single individual was felt, as that of a member of a social circle, and the loss of a few valuable animals was viewed, and not without reason, with the same emotions with which we now look on our most calamitous tempests or conflagrations.

The peculiar religious tenets of our forefathers combined with their desolate situation, in giving an extraordinary and solemn interest to every accident which befell any of their associates. They appear to have carried the doctrine of temporal rewards and punishments further than any religious sect of our own days, to have considered themselves as living not only under the constant, but almost under the miraculous care of Providence, and to have noted down and interpreted every casualty as a direct manifestation of divine displeasure. It may be more difficult to defend the intolerance which is frequently displayed in these volumes, and which is a melancholy indication of the degree in which the author, notwithstanding his naturally mild and benevolent disposition, partook of the reigning spirit of his companions.

The religious intolerance of our Puritan forefathers is a fault, which it would be worse than useless to deny, and we allow that their constant and manifest consciousness of their own rectitude, furnishes them with only a partial justification. Doubtless there was much of pride and of anger secretly intermingled in their zeal for the prevalence of unmingled truth, and the establishment of an immaculate church. We think, however, that in this respect, as in many others, they have been censured with much too little allowance for their peculiar condition and pursuits. It is well known, that their object was to plant a church and not an empire. They were not merely a religious, but a theological community; all their thoughts except so far as they were necessarily directed to their own subsistence and security, were absorbed by 'those duties of which God is not only the author but the object.' It was natural, therefore, that disputes on subjects which engrossed the whole intellect and feelings of the community, should be carried on with intense earnestness, and our forefathers were certainly not singular in transgressing the slight boundary, which separates earnestness from passion. In our own days we have seen how far passion and prejudice can be carried, in politics, in times of high excitement, when the vital interests of the nation are considered as depending on the success of this or that party; and what politics were twenty years ago, theology was in 1640. The disputes of parties in our own days generally produce no other injury, than the interruption of social intercourse, and the exchange of unkind looks and hard words. Person and property are protected by written constitutions and laws, which, independently of their direct operation, have, by a necessary reaction, strengthened, fortified, and extended in the public mind, those principles of justice and humanity which gave them birth. Above all, the right of trial by jury furnishes a refuge against public and individual oppression, which can never be rendered insecure, till the deepest foundations of society are broken up. Two hundred years ago, the rights of citizens were far less extensive than now, and defined with far less precision. Our colonial fathers early claimed and exercised the power of internal legislation, and though they were forbidden to make any law contrary to the law of England, yet their proceedings were for a long time unchecked and unnoticed by the mother country. They brought with them much of that undue regard to birth and rank, which is now happily effaced by our free and equal systems of government; their pe-

cular religious feelings and opinions led them to pay to the clergy a degree of deference, of which some faint traces yet linger in the interior of New England ; and during many years the government was in fact an aristocracy as despotic as that of Venice. It is no wonder that power so unlimited should have been sometimes abused.

The portion of these volumes which will be read with the most unmingled sentiments of disapprobation, is that which describes the fate of the highminded Miantunnomoh, Sachem of the Naragansetts. We certainly think, that the conduct of the Pilgrims towards their savage brethren, though occasionally blemished with cruelty, has been too strongly and indiscriminately censured. The transactions which took place between them during the period embraced in these volumes, are marked on both sides, generally speaking, with justice and kindness. That the settlement of this country, by a foreign and civilized nation, must eventually lead to the dispersion and destruction of the aborigines, was a truth which seems to have been suspected by Sassacus, the Pequod Sachem, forty years before the war of Philip. Happily for us, the savage tribes of New England were, for a long time, too simple and shortsighted in their policy to be aware of this fact in its full force, and too little united among themselves to exert their superior power in overwhelming the colonies in their infancy. It was alike unavoidable, however, that wars should at length arise between the English and Indians, and that these should be wars of extermination. Let any one read the history of those times, with an unbiassed mind, and he will be convinced that our fathers had no choice between abandoning this country to the savage hunters, who originally roamed over it, and gaining an entire and exclusive possession of it by the sword. He must be a stanch supporter of abstract theories, who can maintain that they should have adopted the former alternative.

But however misplaced we may consider the romantic compassion, which has been sometimes bestowed on Sassacus and Philip, the determined and implacable enemies of the English race and name, we know not what extenuation can be found for the execution of Miantunnomoh. That chieftain had been the early friend of the English, had repeatedly visited the governor at Boston, and when summoned there to answer for his life, on some charges of treachery brought against him from Connecticut, obeyed the mandate and pleaded his cause before the Gen-

eral Court, observing to his judges that 'though some had dissuaded him, assuring him that the English would put him to death, or keep him in prison, yet, he being innocent of any ill intention against the English, he knew them to be so just that they would do him no wrong.' He offered to meet his great adversary, the sachem Onkus, at Boston, and prove to his face his treachery against the English. 'He urged much, that those might be punished who had raised this slander, and put it to our consideration what damage it had been to him, in that he was forced to keep his men at home, and not suffer them to go hunting till he had given the English satisfaction.' These reasonable requests were disregarded, but after passing two days at Boston, he established his innocence to the satisfaction of his judges, and was dismissed in peace. The following year proved with how much foundation he had calculated on the justice and liberality of his English allies. In July, 1643, his relative, Sequasson, was attacked by Onkus. Miantunnomoh complained to the English, and requested permission to avenge his kinsman's wrongs. This permission was granted in the fullest and most unequivocal language. Miantunnomoh accordingly attacked Onkus with a superior force, but was defeated, and afterwards delivered up to his rival, by two of his officers. When brought before Onkus he preserved total silence. Onkus demanded the reason. 'Had you taken me,' said he 'I would have besought you for my life.' This the captive chieftain disdained to do. Gorton, of Rhode Island, and his associates then interfered in behalf of Miantunnomoh, their early friend and protector, and demanded his liberation. Onkus carried his captive to Hartford to take the advice of the magistrates there, and Miantunnomoh was delivered, at his own request, into their hands. What follows cannot be better related than in the words of Mr Savage.

'It cannot be doubted, I presume, that the captive, having in vain pressed the conqueror to put him to death, expected friendship from the English, to which his former services and recent deference gave him no slight claim. The Narragansetts made presents to Onkus; by one party these gifts are represented as a reward for delivering his prisoner to the English, by the other, as a ransom for the life of their sovereign. See governor Hayne's letter to Winthrop, 3 Hist. Coll. I. 229. Perhaps the conqueror was persuaded to surrender his prey at Hartford through the influence of Gorton and his associates, for it was at first reported,

that "they sent their letters in the name of the governor of Massachusetts;" but as this clause was afterwards struck out by Winthrop, it was probably a false report. Such a deception, for a benevolent purpose, might not be a heavy aggravation of the errors of ignorance, under which those heretics sank. Whatever influence, however, moved Onkus, it seems hardly possible, that he could have anticipated the joyful result of the policy of his teachers in civilization, the deliberation of pious statesmen, by which his captive was restored to his hands, with an injunction to put him to death.

'A judicial investigation of the case of this sachem should not have been undertaken; but as it was, we may look at the grounds of judgment. Trumbull, I. 130, makes part of his offence "without consulting the English according to agreement." Our author's narrative ought to have silenced such a pretence. Little importance need be attached to another allegation, "that he had promised us in the open court to send to Onkus the Pequod, who had shot him in the arm, yet in his way homeward he killed him;" nor indeed to any other part of the doubtful story about the traitorous slave of the Moheagan. By the acts of the commissioners, Haz. II. 8, we learn, that it was fully proved, from the Pequod's own mouth, that he was guilty, and therefore Miantunnomoh, if innocent, as our people, before his misfortunes, thought him, might believe his royal promise satisfactorily performed by putting to death the assassin, instead of returning him to his master. Perhaps his promise to the English, on this matter, was less distinctly understood than it might have been between contracting parties of the same language. If Onkus were, however, free from all blame, and the Narragansett chargeable with treachery, and every other vice of kings, our rulers had no cognizance of the cause, and their advice to the successful warrior was cruel; but their conduct to Miantunnomoh, who had so few years before been their ally against the Pequods, can hardly be regarded as less than a betraying of innocent blood. In the congress of the united colonies, whose doings in this behalf are briefly, but fairly, told by our author, its president, and may be seen at large in Haz. II. 11-13, it was too hastily, I think, resolved, "that it would not be safe to set him at liberty;" and as death was the alternative, in their want of counsel and confidence to come to such a shocking result, against an unarmed prisoner, who was in amity with them, advice was asked, yet of only five among fifty assembled, of the ministers of religion. The fate of Agag followed of course.'

With profound regret I am compelled to express a suspicion, that means of sufficient influence would easily have been found

for the security of themselves, the pacifying of Onkus, and the preservation of Miantunnomoh, had he not encouraged the sale of Shaomet and Patuxet to Gorton and his heterodox associates. This idea had been unwillingly entertained years before I knew the comment of Governor Stephen Hopkins, 2 Hist. Coll. IX. 202, with which I close this unhappy subject. "The savage soul of Uncas doubted, whether he ought to take away the life of a great king, who had fallen into his hands by misfortune; and to resolve this doubt, he applied to the Christian commissioners of the four united colonies, who met at Hartford,* in September, 1644. They were less scrupulous, and ordered Uncas to carry Myantonomo out of their jurisdiction, and slay him; but kindly added, that he should not be tortured; they sent some persons to see execution done, who had the satisfaction to see the captive king murdered in cold blood. This was the end of Myantonomo, the most potent Indian prince the people of New England had ever any concern with; and this was the reward he received for assisting them seven years before, in their wars with the Pequots. Surely a Rhode Island man may be permitted to mourn his unhappy fate, and drop a tear on the ashes of Myantonomo, who, with his uncle Conanicus, were the best friends and greatest benefactors the colony ever had. They kindly received, fed, and protected the first settlers of it, when they were in distress, and were strangers and exiles, and all mankind else were their enemies; and by this kindness to them, drew upon themselves the resentment of the neighboring colonies, and hastened the untimely end of the young king." Vol. II. pp. 132-134, *note*.

Every one will regret that so few accounts now exist of the domestic customs and modes of living of our ancestors; a fact which results from the obvious circumstance, that every historian writes in the first place for his contemporaries, and therefore passes over such topics, as too familiar to be noticed. There was no *Espriella* among our forefathers, to admit us into their dwellings, and seat us at their firesides, and give us a complete view of the routine of their daily occupations and recreations. On these subjects we must be contented with scanty and incidental hints, a few of which may be gleaned from the work before us. The houses of the first settlers of Boston were generally, as might be expected from the circumstances of the country, extremely simple and unadorned. Wooden chimneys

* 'It should be Boston, 1643, Trumbull, I. 133, hastily says, the commissioners for Plymouth are not on record this year. Their names are signed to the acts.'

were common for many years, and a wainscot of clapboards in the house of the deputy governor was considered a highly censurable piece of extravagance. The house of the 'ladye Moodye' at Salem, a person of high consideration, seems to have closely resembled one of our smallest dwellings, being nine feet high, with a chimney in the centre. The furniture of the early colonists was of a rather different quality. Much of it was brought from England and was of considerable value, forming a strong contrast in this respect to the humble sheds in which it was often deposited. In an inventory of the effects of Mrs Martha Coytemore, Governor Winthrop's fourth wife, dated in 1647, we find silk curtains, brass andirons, *cherry* plates and saucers, and Turkey carpets.

Some estimate may be formed of the ordinary expenses of living from a remark in Governor Winthrop's account, dated 1634.

'I was first chosen Governor,' he observes, 'without my seeking or expectation, there being divers other gentlemen, who for their abilities every way were far more fit. Being chosen, I furnished myself with servants, and provisions accordingly, in a far greater proportion than I would have done, had I come as a private man or as an assistant only. In this office I continued four years and near a half, although I earnestly desired at every election to have been freed. In this time I have spent above £500 per annum, *of which 200 per annum would have maintained my family in a private condition.*'

There seems to have been no want of luxuries for the table. The country furnished fish and game in abundance, and though, says the Governor, in a letter dated, November the twentyninth, 1630, 'we have not beef and mutton, yet, God be praised, we want them not, our Indian corn answers for all,' an opinion in which, notwithstanding our regard for that highly useful vegetable, we find it difficult to follow him. Groceries were soon brought over in abundance from England, though it will be recollected that our two most valued articles of that description, tea and coffee, were not then used in Europe. We are told that at a military muster of twelve hundred men in 1641, there was not a man drunk, though wine and strong beer abounded in Boston; and we find that in 1630 the Governor began to discourage the practice of drinking toasts at table. Had he succeeded in abolishing it, what racking of invention and rummaging of memory for

extemporaneous sentiments might have been spared the present generation.

The attempts of our ancestors to restrain luxury in dress were altogether unavailing. It is stated, September the eighteenth, 1634, that many laws were made against tobacco, and immodest fashions, and costly apparel; but though such laws were frequently made, we do not recollect that Governor Winthrop mentions any instance in which they were enforced. Our ancestors endeavored to regulate the spirit of gain, as well as of expense, and with the same eventual success. The prices of labor and of commodities were fixed repeatedly by positive laws, but experience soon proved the utter futility of the project, though not until these laws had been executed in a few instances, especially in the case of Captain Robert Keaine, who was compelled to pay eighty pounds for taking a profit of sixpence and eightpence in the shilling, and in some small instances two for one. The state of morals among our forefathers, and the degeneracy of succeeding generations, have been subjects respectively of eulogy and lamentation from their day to ours; and we recollect a sermon of Mr Stoughton, published about the middle of the seventeenth century, in which he exclaims with great vehemence, 'our wine is mixed with water.' A close examination of this *Journal* may satisfy a candid reader, that such remarks are dictated in some degree by that veneration for antiquity, and discontent with the world around us, which are found in all countries and generations. The first colonists of Massachusetts were unquestionably, on the whole, a highly respectable community. Many of them, like the author of this work, were men partaking, like all human beings, of the errors and defects of the age in which they lived, and the society which surrounded them, but men of whom any country would be justly proud. They were among the best specimens of what was then and is now the best class of society in Great Britain, its well educated commoners; men superior perhaps to any of their successors in deep and extensive learning, and second to none for fervent piety, for stern integrity, and disinterested patriotism. But that all the early settlers of New England were of this description, is a supposition, which, though it sometimes seems to have been taken for granted, is manifestly absurd. There were several of the same stamp with those who find a place in every new country, needy and desperate adventurers, who hoped to find in a remote settlement, the subsistence which they were unwilling to procure by

honest exertion in their native land. Crimes, even of the most shocking description, sometimes occurred, and many parts of this volume bear a close resemblance to the records of our criminal tribunals at the present day. Besides, there was, even in the more respectable classes of society, a deficiency in refinement and delicacy of manners, which proves, more than any thing else, the progress of society since the seventeenth century. What modern audience would endure disclosures like those made by the Rev. Mr Cotton, at a public lecture, in Boston ?

If, however, we can claim any superiority, as an enlightened and refined community, over our forefathers, let us never forget how much of this preeminence we owe to their wisdom and liberality. The erection of the venerable Universities of Harvard and Yale ; the adoption to a great degree of those statutes of descent and distribution, beautifully denominated by Judge Story, ' the only true and just Agrarian laws,' which have utterly obliterated the few vestiges of aristocracy which had found a place in our land ; the provisions for the support of religion, which combine so happily the interest of the public with the liberty of the individual ; and, above all, the introduction of free schools ; these great sources of our freedom, our equality, our intellectual and moral power, were all established, by the founders of New England, during the first century of its existence. Our fathers were no devotees of ancient prejudices, anxious to exclude every ray of intellectual light which might disclose the defects of their own political and religious systems ; no crafty tyrants, laboring to establish the power of the few by perpetuating the ignorance of the many ; no wild fanatics, who thought that divine truth could be only contaminated by the admixture of human learning. They were enthusiasts, indeed, but it was a dignified and generous enthusiasm, an enthusiasm which sought noble ends by noble means ; it was their great object to render their posterity a religious, by rendering them an enlightened people. We may smile at the whimsical peculiarities of the Pilgrims, or lament their graver faults, but we shall show little of the boasted liberality of the present day, if we can read their annals with no other emotions than these ; if we fail to render due homage to their unwavering singleness of purpose, their unconquerable perseverance, their unquenchable zeal for the dissemination of pure truth, and the prosperity of their adopted country.

We close this article, regretting that our limits forbid our rendering more adequate justice to its venerable author, and its able

and learned editor ; but the character of Governor Winthrop is too well known to need any further commemoration, and we trust that the public will duly appreciate the patriotic zeal, which could lead a gentleman, of Mr Savage's abilities and occupations, to undertake a task requiring such patient and minute industry. We hope that his success, in the present instance, will have its due effect in inducing him to continue his important and interesting researches. The field, which he has chosen for his peculiar labors, is a true New England soil, unpromising in its aspect to a careless observer, but yielding a rich reward to the skilful and laborious cultivator.

ART. III.—*The Merry Tales of the Three Wise Men of Gotham.* Edited by the Author of 'John Bull in America.'

'Three Wise Men of Gotham
Went to Sea in a Bowl.
If the Bowl had been stronger,
My Tales had been longer.'

New York. 1826. G. & C. Carvill. 12mo. pp. 324.

Of all the sages of antiquity, whose names have been handed down to our time, none have excited so general a notice, as the three wise men of Gotham. The short fragment of the history of these unfortunate navigators hitherto known to us, which records their lamentable fate, has not been the theme of the learned antiquary and studious scholar alone, but is in the mouths of persons of every class, and of all periods of life, from lisping infancy to tremulous old age. Whether this universal interest and sympathy, is to be attributed to the sudden exit of these venerable men ; to the extraordinary character of the vessel to which they committed themselves ; or to the mysterious brevity of the fragment alluded to, are questions, which, considering the numerous learned disquisitions on less important subjects, we might have expected, would before this, have exercised the ingenuity of many laborious commentators. This, however, has not been the case, and the history of these distinguished philosophers has remained involved in the most profound obscurity up to this time. The documents noticed at the head of this article purport to be the memoirs of these ancient personages. To con-